

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-03

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FOR SR/ORM

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SUBJECT: MEETING OF ICEM SUB-COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE (SCBF)

1. THE FIRST PART OF THE 27TH SESSION OF ICEM SCBF WAS HELD
IN GENEVA SEPTEMBER 17-18. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS
MEETING:

A. THE SCBF LEARNED THAT IN RESPONSE TO DIRECTOR'S
APPEAL FOR AD HOC CONTRIBUTIONS TO COVER \$171,000 DEFICIT IN
1973 ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET, FOURTEEN (14) GOVERNMENTS HAVE
THUS FAR PAID OR PLEDGED \$141,840 AND THAT EXPECTED CONTRIBUTIONS
FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS WOULD PROBABLY COVER REMAINING DEFICIT.

B. RE CARRY-OVER DEFICITS FROM CY 1972, THE AUSTRALIAN
DELEGATE ANNOUNCED GOA'S AGREEMENT TO COVER THE SHORTFALL OF
\$125,474 IN SECTION I-NATIONAL MIGRATION, AND DIRECTOR
INFORMED SCBF THAT SHORTFALL IN SECTION III-LATIN AMERICAN
PROGRAM WAS COVERED IN PART (\$13,600) BY THE GOVERNMENT
OF SWITZERLAND AND BALANCE (\$141,349) WAS WITHDRAWN FROM
GENERAL ACCOUNT OF MIGRANT LOAN FUND.

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C. SCBF EXPRESSED ITS OPPOSITION TO THE CARRYING OVER OF
DEFICITS AND STRESSED THAT THIS PRACTICE SHOULD NOT BE FOLLOWED

IN FUTURE.

D. SCBF LEARNED THAT ICEM'S STAFF STRENGTH WHICH WAS 514 AT END 1972 WILL HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY 353 BY END 1973.

E. RE DEFICITS IN 1973 OPERATIONAL BUDGET, SCBF LEARNED THAT SHORTFALL IN SECTION I WOULD PROBABLY BE COVERED BY AUSTRALIA AND SOUTH AFRICA. THE SHORTFALL IN SECTION II WHICH AMOUNTS TO APPROXIMATELY \$15,000 WAS NOT CONSIDERED PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT AND WOULD BE EASILY COVERED IF ELEVEN (11) MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WHICH NOT NOW CONTRIBUTING TO REFUGEE PROGRAM WOULD DO SO. THE SCBF URGED THE ADMINISTRATION TO PURSUE THOSE ELEVEN GOVERNMENTS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS. WITH RESPECT SECTION III-LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM, THE SCBF WAS INFORMED THAT THE SHORTFALL OF \$147,150 WOULD BE COVERED IF ONE COUNTRY (ITALY) WOULD CONTRIBUTE AT SAME LEVEL AS IT HAD IN PREVIOUS YEARS. THE DIRECTOR INFORMED SCBF THAT HE WAS MAINTAINING CLOSE CONTACT WITH GOI IN THIS REGARD.

F. THE USDEL REMINDED THE SCBF THAT IN HIS GOVERNMENT'S PLEDGED CONTRIBUTION TO ICEM'S 1973 PROGRAM THE DIRECTOR HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT USG'S CONTRIBUTION SHOULD NOT EXCEED 25 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS. THE USDEL RECOGNIZED THAT OWING TO EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES IT WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO STAY WITHIN THE 25 PERCENT CEILING IN 1973. THE USDEL INFORMED THE SCBF THAT HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN WAS THEREFORE PRINCIPALLY DIRECTED TO THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT IN 1974 AND FUTURE YEARS. THE USDEL ASSURED THE SCBF THAT THIS LIMITATIONS DID NOT INDICATE ANY LESSENING OF USG INTEREST IN ICEM AND HE URGED UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION FROM OTHER MEMBER NATIONS TO ENSURE ADEQUATE FINANCING OF ICEM'S PROGRAMS.

G. SCBF EXAMINED PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND PROGRAM FOR CY 1974 AND SUPPORTED THE DIRECTOR'S PROPOSAL THAT A WORKING GROUP BE ESTABLISHED EARLY IN 1974 TO REVIEW THE ASSESSMENT SCALE FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET WITH VIEW TO ELIMINATING THE UNFUNDED GAP OF 12.89 PERCENT RESULTING LARGELY FROM AUSTRALIA'S WITHDRAWAL.

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H. SCBF OBSERVED THAT THE LEVEL OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET IN RELATION TO THE OPERATIONAL BUDGET HAD INCREASED FROM 14.9 PERCENT IN 1972 TO 18.2 PERCENT IN 1973 TO 19.2 PERCENT IN 1974 AND URGED THE ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES TO HOLD DOWN ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURES.

I. SCBF QUESTIONED THE ADVISABILITY OF ESTABLISHING LINE ITEMS IN THE 1974 BUDGET FOR AN EMERGENCY DISASTER UNIT (\$10,000) AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONTINGENCY RESERVE (\$126,500)

AS PROPOSED BY ICEM ADMINISTRATION. IT WAS AGREED THAT THESE MATTERS WOULD BE RECONSIDERED AT SCBF'S NEXT MEETING IN NOVEMBER.

J. SCBF NOTED THAT SECTION I OF 1974 BUDGET WAS PRESENTED IN BALANCE AND THAT SECTION II SHOWED A DEFICIT OF \$56,200 WHICH WAS NOT CONSIDERED OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE AT THIS EARLY STATE. AS FOR SECTION III, THE DIRECTOR INFORMED SCBF THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD UNDERTAKEN A THOROUGH STUDY OF THE LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM AND A REVISED AND CLEARER PRESENTATION OF SECTION III WOULD THEREFORE BE AVAILABLE FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE SCBF IN NOVEMBER.

K. RE PREVIDENT FUND, THE SCBF EXPRESSED SYMPATHY WITH PLIGHT OF RETIRING STAFF MEMBERS WHO MIGHT SUFFER FINANCIAL LOSSES OWING CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS; HOWEVER, ON BASIS OF THE LIMITED DETAILS IN DOCUMENT SCBF/146 THE SCBF COULD NOT AGREE ON ANY DEFINITIVE ACTION. IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE ICEM ADMINISTRATION WOULD SUBMIT A MORE DETAILED PAPER ON THE SUBJECT FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE SCBF IN NOVEMBER.

2. A DETAILED REPORT ON THE 27TH SESSION OF SCBF WILL BE PREPARED AND SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOLLOWING THE RESUMEDD SESSION IN NOVEMBER.BASSIN

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